To help us further explore our unit: **A strong community embraces similarities and differences** we would love each child to bring in an object that celebrates something about their family. The item may relate to their country of birth place or of their parents or grandparents, a photo of a family celebration, or perhaps even a book or information read in a language they speak at home. The end of our unit will conclude with the whole school celebration on Harmony Day.

**Reading and the take home books**

We are thrilled to see that the majority of children are remembering to bring their blue bag and reading log to school **every day**. Please note that the children are only selecting one book each night to share with you. This book should **not** replace your usual family reading experiences. Please continue to read books **to** your child and share a variety of books or texts **with** your child.

**Storytelling**

The Drama workshops – which end this week – have been thoroughly enjoyed by the students. In next week’s bulletin we will share how some of the students have responded to these sessions in their class.

Telling stories and exploring ideas through puppetry is a great vehicle for language and literacy development. Storytelling is a great way to extend your child’s language and listening skills.

Creating stories for your child is another rich family experience. You might have a story that was told to you as a child which you could retell to them? Creating a character and thinking of the character’s adventures could ignite your imagination too!

Here are a few tips from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s booklet, *201 Literacy and Maths Tips to Help Your Child* about story telling.

**Story telling might be about:**

- A favourite character from a book or TV program
- Another family member
- Your child’s favourite toy

**Here are some tips to start your storytelling:**

- Make it exciting with different voices, puppets, props or finger play
- Start with what interests your child
- Create a character and setting

The following link is worth watching and is a wonderful interview with the 2016/17 Australian children’s laureate – Leigh Hobbs. Many of the questions asked of Hobbs were provided by children who are keen fans of his entertaining picture story books. It is fascinating to hear Hobbs
explain how he developed the ideas for some of his engaging characters, such as, Old Tom and Horrible Harriet.

In conjunction with Hobbs’ interview, the ABCSplash site has launched a competition - *Create A Character competition* which your child may like to enter. The competition closes 5pm Friday 8 April.


**Mathematics: Measurement**

There are lots of opportunities to develop an understanding of measurement at home e.g how many footsteps to the letterbox, how tall is each member of the family, how long, wide, high is the table? Have fun exploring your environment!

**Help Required**

Are there any parents who could do some sewing for us over the holidays?

Please let us know and we will provide all the materials for the school holidays.

**Reminders:**

**Computer Headphones:** Please send these in ASAP.

**Upcoming Events:**

**My Hero Day:** Tomorrow!

Children may dress up as their favourite super hero and donate a gold coin to Captain Courageous Foundation. Please read the newsletter for more details.

**Parent Helpers Session:** Tuesday 22 March, 2.45-3.20pm

Enjoy the long weekend!

Thank you

The Grade 1 & 2 Teachers

2J: Miss Johnson, 2S: Mat, 1K: Jenny and Mrs Pearse, 1P: Pippa and Mrs Pearse, 1E: Pauline